

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



Monday, November 7, 2005  
Volume 41—Number 44  
Pages 1623–1658

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**Editor's Note:** The President was in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on November 4, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for \$80.00 per year (\$137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for \$93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is \$3.00 (\$3.75 for foreign mailing).

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Week Ending Friday, November 4, 2005

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Request To Reallocate Emergency Funds for Further Response and Recovery Efforts in the Regions Affected by Hurricane Katrina**

*October 28, 2005*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

The devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina across the Gulf Coast States has required an unprecedented response by Federal, State, and local governments, as well as the private sector. To date, I have signed into law two supplemental appropriations bills totaling \$62.3 billion for hurricane-related disaster relief.

To further assist the region in its continued recovery in a fiscally responsible way, I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed reallocation request to provide \$17.1 billion in emergency funds for further response and recovery efforts, by reallocating available funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Relief Fund. I hereby designate this proposal in the amount requested herein as an emergency requirement. This request will provide further assistance to meet the needs of victims, continue the rebuilding and repair of the region's infrastructure, and accelerate the return of Federal agencies to facilities in the region.

To further efforts to offset the unprecedented cost of this disaster and control the growth in discretionary spending, I also will be sending you a separate rescissions proposal reducing funding for lower-priority programs and eliminating excess funds. By holding 2006 nonsecurity discretionary spending below a freeze and achieving additional savings through reconciliation legislation, we will advance our efforts to maintain fiscal discipline while continuing to provide for the needs of hurricane-affected States.

I urge the Congress to act expeditiously on this request to ensure that the Federal

response to these disasters continues uninterrupted.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Proposed Budget Rescissions**

*October 28, 2005*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

Today, in a separate message, I have asked the Congress to reallocate \$17.1 billion of available funding in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Relief Fund to provide for further response and recovery efforts in the regions affected by Hurricane Katrina.

As a further measure to ensure fiscal responsibility as we continue our unprecedented response to Hurricane Katrina, I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed request to rescind \$2.3 billion from lower-priority Federal programs and excess funds.

As we help the people of the Gulf Coast region recover and rebuild from Hurricane Katrina, it is more important than ever to redouble our efforts to reduce unnecessary spending elsewhere in the budget.

In concert with this rescission proposal, I urge the Congress to reduce Fiscal Year 2006 nonsecurity spending below last year's levels, as proposed in my Budget. In addition, I urge the Congress to achieve the maximum amount of mandatory savings through reconciliation legislation over the next 5 years. These actions will advance our shared goal

to maintain fiscal responsibility as we continue our assistance to hurricane-affected regions.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### **The President's Radio Address**

*October 29, 2004*

Good morning. This week marked another important milestone in carrying out our strategy in Iraq. On Tuesday, the Iraqi election commission formally certified the passage of the new Iraqi constitution, after nearly 10 million Iraqis turned out to vote on it 2 weeks ago. This is a moment of tremendous significance for Iraq, the region, and the world. Three years ago, when Saddam Hussein ruled with an iron grip, the prospect of Iraqis voting on a democratic constitution would have been unthinkable. Now, the Iraqi people have shown that individual rights and rule by the people are universal principles and that these principles can become the basis for free and decent governments throughout the Middle East.

The new Iraqi constitution received support from Iraqis of all ethnic and religious backgrounds. Iraq's largest Sunni political party endorsed the constitution and urged its followers to approve the draft. Many more Sunnis participated in this vote than in January's historic elections, and the level of violence was also dramatically lower. Even those who voted against the constitution are now organizing and preparing for elections in December.

Just 30 months removed from the rule of a dictator and 9 months after they first elected their own leaders, the Iraqi people are resolving tough issues through an inclusive political process. And this process is isolating the extremists who wish to derail democracy through violence and murder.

The terrorists were also watching the Iraqi vote. These brutal killers follow a radical ide-

ology that exploits Islam to serve a violent political vision. They hope to establish a totalitarian state in Iraq that denies all political and religious freedom, and they hope to use that country as a base for attacks on all people, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, who disagree with their twisted perversion of the Muslim faith.

The terrorists' goals leave no room for individual conscience or democratic participation, so they threatened to kill any Iraqi who went to the polls, including women and the elderly and even those who opposed the constitution. And they continue to use random bombings to try to break the will of the Iraqi people and of coalition forces, as we saw again this week when the terrorists bombed two Baghdad hotels.

Instead of surrendering to intimidation, the Iraqi people once again risked their lives for their liberty. Instead of turning against one another, the Iraqi people turned out to express their will at the polls. And instead of allowing their nation to become a haven for terrorists, the Iraqis are choosing democracy and freedom for their country.

The political process in Iraq now moves forward. Iraqis will return to the polls in December to elect a new Government under their new constitution. This Government will be our ally in the war on terror, a partner in the struggle for peace and moderation in the Muslim world, and an inspiration for people across the Middle East to claim their liberty as well.

Our security at home is directly linked to a Middle East that grows in freedom and peace. The success of the new Iraqi Government is critical to winning the war on terror and protecting the American people. Ensuring that success will require more sacrifice, more time, and more resolve, and it will involve more risk for Iraqis and for American and coalition forces.

The progress we have made so far has involved great sacrifice. The greatest burden has fallen on our military families. We've lost some of our Nation's finest men and women in the war on terror. Each of them has left grieving families and loved ones back home. Each loss of life is heartbreaking. Yet these patriots have also left a legacy that will allow generations of their fellow Americans and

millions of others who have only known oppression to enjoy the blessings of liberty.

The best way to honor the sacrifice of our fallen troops is to complete the mission and win the war on terror. We will train Iraqi security forces and help a newly elected Government meet the needs of the Iraqi people. In doing so, we will lay the foundation of peace for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:52 a.m. on October 28 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 29. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 28 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his address, the President referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

### **Proclamation 7951—Death of Rosa Parks**

*October 30, 2005*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

As a mark of respect for the memory of Rosa Parks, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, that on the day of her interment, the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset on such day. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same period at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:51 a.m., November 1, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2.

### **Remarks Announcing the Nomination of Samuel A. Alito, Jr., To Be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States October 31, 2005**

Good morning. I'm pleased to announce my nomination of Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr., as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Judge Alito is one of the most accomplished and respected judges in America, and his long career in public service has given him an extraordinary breadth of experience.

As a Justice Department official, Federal prosecutor, and judge on the United States Court of Appeals, Sam Alito has shown a mastery of the law, a deep commitment of justice, and a—and he is a man of enormous character. He's scholarly, fair-minded, and principled, and these qualities will serve our Nation well on the highest Court of the land.

Judge Alito showed great promise from the beginning in studies at Princeton and Yale Law School, as editor of the Yale Law Journal, as a clerk for a Federal court of appeals judge. He served in the Army Reserves and was honorably discharged as a captain. Early in his career, Sam Alito worked as a Federal prosecutor and handled criminal and civil matters for the United States. As assistant to the Solicitor General, he argued 12 cases before the Supreme Court and has argued dozens of others before the Federal courts of appeals.

He served in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, providing constitutional advice for the President and the executive branch. In 1987, President Ronald Reagan named him the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey, the top prosecutor in one of the Nation's largest Federal districts, and he was confirmed by unanimous consent by the Senate. He moved aggressively against white-collar and environmental crimes and drug trafficking and organized crime and violation of civil rights.



In his role, Sam Alito showed a passionate commitment to the rule of law, and he gained a reputation for being both tough and fair. In 1990, President Bush nominated Sam Alito, at the age of 39, for the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Judge Alito's nomination received bipartisan support, and he was again confirmed by unanimous consent by the United States Senate. Judge Alito has served with distinction on that court for 15 years and now has more prior judicial experience than any Supreme Court nominee in more than 70 years.

Judge Alito's reputation has only grown over the span of his service. He has participated in thousands of appeals and authored hundreds of opinions. This record reveals a thoughtful judge who considers the legal matter—merits carefully and applies the law in a principled fashion. He has a deep understanding of the proper role of judges in our society. He understands that judges are to interpret the laws, not to impose their preferences or priorities on the people.

In the performance of his duties, Judge Alito has gained the respect of his colleagues and attorneys for his brilliance and decency. He's won admirers across the political spectrum. I'm confident that the United States Senate will be impressed by Judge Alito's distinguished record, his measured judicial temperament, and his tremendous personal integrity. And I urge the Senate to act promptly on this important nomination so that an up-or-down vote is held before the end of this year.

Today Judge Alito is joined by his wife, Martha, who was a law librarian when he first met her. Sam and I both know you can't go wrong marrying a librarian. Sam and Martha's two children, Phil and Laura, are also with us, and I know how proud you are of your dad today. I'm sure as well that Judge Alito is thinking of his mom, Rose, who will be 91 in December. And I know he's thinking about his late father; Samuel Alito, Sr., came to this country as an immigrant child from Italy in 1914, and his fine family has realized the great promise of our country.

Judge, thanks for agreeing to serve, and congratulations on your nomination.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:01 a.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Associate Justice-designate Alito. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### **Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy**

*October 31, 2005*

**President Bush.** The Prime Minister and I will make statements. Thank you very much. Welcome.

It is good to have my friend back in the Oval Office. I say "my friend" because it seems like we see each other a lot, and every time we do, I appreciate your advice and your counsel. Relations between Italy and the United States are strong, and the relationship between our countries is important. It's important for our economies, and I'm pleased to know that trade is—between our countries is vibrant.

And this relationship is important because the United States has a strong partner in peace. I want to thank Silvio's strong commitment to the freedom of people in Afghanistan and in Iraq. I appreciate his strong vision of peace in the Balkans. In the past, we worked closely together to help the Libyan leader understand that we're living in a different world, a world in which we've got to work together for peace.

So it's my honor to welcome you back, Mr. Prime Minister.

**Prime Minister Berlusconi.** Thank you.

**President Bush.** And thank you for coming.

**Prime Minister Berlusconi.** Thank you, Mr. President. It's now a habit for me to come and pay homage to the President of the United States here at the Oval Office. It's always a pleasure for me. And it's a pleasure for me to come and see a friend, the leader of a friendly country.

Italy will be always—be grateful to the United States for what this country has been doing to free us from totalitarianism in the past century. And it is for us a reason of pride to be next, side by side with our American

ally in broadening the borders of democracy and freedom in the world and in order to pursue peace, which is something we all aspire to.

I, personally, admire, very strong, the leadership shown by President Bush. He has—[inaudible]—the same values and the same principles I have. And he is very consistent in the decisions that he carries on. And I do believe that President Bush and what he has been doing will remain ingrained in history. In a sensitive moment of our global history, he will mark history as the one who had—he was so farsighted, because also within United Nations, he carried out a mission of democracy.

And this is the reason why Italy is a member of the community of democracies, and we provide our support and contribution to the Fund for Democracy that President Bush established and which we joined recently in New York.

**President Bush.** Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:44 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Col. Muammar Abu Minyar al-Qadhafi, leader of Libya. Prime Minister Berlusconi spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Remarks on the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response in Bethesda, Maryland November 1, 2005**

Thank you all. Michael, thank you very much for your introduction. And thanks for the warm reception here at the National Institute of Health. It's good to be back here again.

For more than a century, the NIH has been at the forefront of this country's efforts to prevent, detect, and treat disease, and I appreciate the good work you're doing here. This is an important facility, an important complex, and the people who work here are really important to the security of this Nation. The scientists who have been supported by the folks who work here have developed and improved vaccines for meningitis and whooping cough and measles and mumps

and rubella and chicken pox and other infectious diseases. Because of the revolutionary advances in medicine, pioneered with the help of the NIH, Americans no longer fear these dreaded diseases; many lives have been saved.

At this moment, the men and women of the NIH are working to protect the American people from another danger, the risk of avian and pandemic influenza. Today, I have come to talk about our Nation's efforts to address this vital issue to the health and the safety of all Americans. I'm here to discuss our strategy to prevent and protect the American people from a possible outbreak.

I appreciate members of my Cabinet who are here. More importantly, I appreciate the hard work you've done on this issue. Secretary Rice, Secretary Johanns, Secretary Mineta, Secretary Nicholson, Secretary Chertoff.

I appreciate the fact that Dr. J.W. Lee, Director-General of the World Health Organization, has joined us. Dr. Lee, thank you for being here.

I want to recognize Dr. David Nabarro, the Senior United Nations System Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza. Thanks for being here. This is—you're about to hear me talk about the international scope of response and detection necessary to protect not only our own people but people around the world. And the fact that these two gentlemen are here is an important signal.

I want to thank Dr. Elias Zerhouni, he's the Director of the NIH—doing a fine job. I want to thank Julie Gerberding, who's the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I appreciate Dr. Rich Carmona, the U.S. Surgeon General. Dr. Tony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. I want to thank Dr. Bruce Gellin, Director of the National Vaccine Program Office. I want to thank Dr. Andy von Eschenbach, who is the Acting Director of the FDA and the Director of the National Cancer Institute.

I appreciate all the members of the health care community who have joined us today. I want to thank State and local officials who are here. I particularly want to thank Senators Specter and Kennedy for coming, as

well as Congressmen Linder, Burgess, and Price. Appreciate you all taking time to be here.

Most Americans are familiar with the influenza or the “flu” as a respiratory illness that makes hundreds of thousands of people sick every year. This fall as the flu season approaches, millions of our fellow citizens are once again visiting their doctors for the annual flu shot. I had mine. For most, it’s just simply a precautionary measure to avoid the fever or a sore throat or muscle aches that come with the flu. Seasonal flu is extremely dangerous for some, people whose immune systems have been weakened by age or illness. But it is not usually life-threatening for most healthy people.

Pandemic flu is another matter. Pandemic flu occurs when a new strain of influenza emerges that can be transmitted easily from person to person and for which there is little or no natural immunity. Unlike seasonal flu, most people have not built up resistance to it. And unlike seasonal flu, it can kill those who are young and healthy as well as those who are frail and sick.

At this moment, there is no pandemic influenza in the United States or the world. But if history is our guide, there is reason to be concerned. In the last century, our country and the world have been hit by three influenza pandemics, and viruses from birds contributed to all of them. The first, which struck in 1918, killed over a half-a-million Americans and more than 20 million people across the globe. One-third of the U.S. population was infected, and life expectancy in our country was reduced by 13 years. The 1918 pandemic was followed by pandemics in 1957 and 1968, which killed tens of thousands of Americans and millions across the world.

Three years ago, the world had a preview of the disruption an influenza pandemic can cause when a previously unknown virus called SARS appeared in rural China. When an infected doctor carried the virus out of China, it spread to Vietnam and Singapore and Canada within a month. Before long, the SARS virus had spread to nearly 30 countries on six continents. It infected more than 8,000 people and killed nearly 800. One elderly woman brought the virus from Hong Kong

to Toronto, where it quickly spread to her son and then to others. Eventually, four others arrived with the virus, and hundreds of Canadians fell ill with SARS, and dozens died.

By one estimate, the SARS outbreak cost the Asian-Pacific region about \$40 billion. The airline industry was hit particularly hard, with air travel to Asia dropping 45 percent in the year after the outbreak. All this was caused by a limited outbreak of a virus that infected thousands and lasted about 6 months. A global influenza pandemic that infects millions and lasts from 1 to 3 years could be far worse.

Scientists and doctors cannot tell us where or when the next pandemic will strike or how severe it will be, but most agree, at some point, we are likely to face another pandemic. And the scientific community is increasingly concerned by a new influenza virus known as H5N1 or avian flu that is now spreading through bird populations across Asia and has recently reached Europe.

This new strain of influenza has infected domesticated birds like ducks and chickens as well as long-range migratory birds. In 1997, the first recorded outbreak among people took place in Hong Kong, when 18 people became infected and six died from the disease. Public health officials in the region took aggressive action and successfully contained the spread of the virus. Avian flu struck again in late 2003 and has infected over 120 people in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Indonesia, and killed more than 60. That’s a fatality rate of about 50 percent.

At this point, we do not have evidence that a pandemic is imminent. Most of the people in Southeast Asia who got sick were handling infected birds. And while the avian flu virus has spread from Asia to Europe, there are no reports of infected birds, animals, or people in the United States. Even if the virus does eventually appear on our shores in birds, that does not mean people in our country will be infected. Avian flu is still primarily an animal disease. And as of now, unless people come into direct, sustained contact with infected birds, it is unlikely they will come down with avian flu.

While avian flu has not yet acquired the ability to spread easily from human to human, there is still cause for vigilance. The virus has developed some characteristics needed to cause a pandemic. It has demonstrated the ability to infect human beings, and it has produced a fatal illness in humans. If the virus were to develop the capacity for sustained human-to-human transmission, it could spread quickly across the globe.

Our country has been given fair warning of this danger to our homeland and time to prepare. My responsibility as the President to take measures now to protect the American people from the possibility that human-to-human transmission may occur. So several months ago, I directed all relevant departments and agencies in the Federal Government to take steps to address the threat of avian and pandemic flu. Since that time, my administration has developed a comprehensive national strategy, with concrete measures we can take to prepare for an influenza pandemic.

Today, I am announcing key elements of that strategy. Our strategy is designed to meet three critical goals: First, we must detect outbreaks that occur anywhere in the world; second, we must protect the American people by stockpiling vaccines and antiviral drugs and improve our ability to rapidly produce new vaccines against a pandemic strain; and third, we must be ready to respond at the Federal, State, and local levels in the event that a pandemic reaches our shores.

To meet these three goals, our strategy will require the combined efforts of government officials in public health, medical, veterinary, and law enforcement communities and the private sector. It will require the active participation of the American people. And it will require the immediate attention of the United States Congress so we can have the resources in place to begin implementing this strategy right away.

The first part of our strategy is to detect outbreaks before they spread across the world. In the fight against avian and pandemic flu, early detection is our first line of defense. A pandemic is a lot like a forest fire: If caught early, it might be extinguished with limited damage; if allowed to smolder unde-

tected, it can grow to an inferno that spreads quickly beyond our ability to control it. So we're taking immediate steps to ensure early warning of an avian or pandemic flu outbreak among animals or humans anywhere in the world.

In September at the United Nations, I announced a new International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza, a global network of surveillance and preparedness that will help us to detect and respond quickly to any outbreaks of the disease. The partnership requires participating countries that face an outbreak to immediately share information and provide samples to the World Health Organization. By requiring transparency, we can respond more rapidly to dangerous outbreaks.

Since we announced this global initiative, the response from across the world has been very positive. Already, 88 countries and 9 international organizations have joined the effort. Senior officials from participating governments recently convened the partnership's first meeting here in Washington.

Together, we're working to control and monitor avian flu in Asia and to ensure that all nations have structures in place to recognize and report outbreaks before they spread beyond human control. I've requested \$251 million from Congress to help our foreign partners train local medical personnel, expand their surveillance and testing capacity, draw up preparedness plans, and take other vital actions to detect and contain outbreaks.

A flu pandemic would have global consequences, so no nation can afford to ignore this threat, and every nation has responsibilities to detect and stop its spread.

Here in the United States, we're doing our part. To strengthen domestic surveillance, my administration is launching the National Bio-Surveillance Initiative. This initiative will help us rapidly detect, quantify, and respond to outbreaks of disease in humans and animals and deliver information quickly to State and local and national and international public health officials. By creating systems that provide continuous situational awareness, we're more likely to be able to stop, slow, or limit the spread of the pandemic and save American lives.

The second part of our strategy is to protect the American people by stockpiling vaccines and antiviral drugs and accelerating development of new vaccine technologies. One of the challenges presented by a pandemic is that scientists need a sample of the new strain before they can produce a vaccine against it. This means it is difficult to produce a pandemic vaccine before the pandemic actually appears, and so there may not be a vaccine capable of fully immunizing our citizens from the new influenza virus during the first several months of a pandemic.

To help protect our citizens during these early months when a fully effective vaccine would not be available, we're taking a number of immediate steps. Researchers here at the NIH have developed a vaccine based on the current strain of the avian flu virus. The vaccine is already in clinical trials. And I'm asking that the Congress fund \$1.2 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services to purchase enough doses of this vaccine from manufacturers to vaccinate 20 million people.

This vaccine would not be a perfect match to the pandemic flu because the pandemic strain would probably differ somewhat from the avian flu virus it grew from. But a vaccine against the current avian flu virus would likely offer some protection against a pandemic strain and possibly save many lives in the first critical months of an outbreak.

We're also increasing stockpiles of antiviral drugs such as Tamiflu and Relenza. Antiviral drugs cannot prevent people from contracting the flu. It can—but they can reduce the severity of the illness when taken within 48 hours of getting sick. So in addition to vaccines, which are the foundation of our pandemic response, I am asking Congress for a billion dollars to stockpile additional antiviral medications, so that we have enough on hand to help treat first-responders and those on the frontlines, as well as populations most at risk in the first stages of a pandemic.

To protect the greatest possible number of Americans during a pandemic, the cornerstone of our strategy is to develop new technologies that will allow us to produce new vaccines rapidly. If a pandemic strikes, our country must have a surge capacity in place that will allow us to bring a new vaccine on

line quickly and manufacture enough to immunize every American against the pandemic strain.

I recently met with leaders of the vaccine industry. They assured me that they will work with the Federal Government to expand the vaccine industry, so that our country is better prepared for any pandemic. Today, the NIH is working with vaccine makers to develop new cell-culture techniques that will help us bring a pandemic flu vaccine to the American people faster in the event of an outbreak. Right now, most vaccines are still produced with 1950's technology using chicken eggs that are infected with the influenza virus and then used to develop and produce vaccines. In the event of a pandemic, this antiquated process would take many, many months to produce a vaccine, and it would not allow us to produce enough vaccine for every American in time.

Since American lives depend on rapid advances in vaccine-production technology, we must fund a crash program to help our best scientists bring the next generation of technology on line rapidly. I'm asking Congress for \$2.8 billion to accelerate development of cell-culture technology. By bringing cell-culture technology from the research laboratory into the production line, we should be able to produce enough vaccine for every American within 6 months of the start of a pandemic.

I'm also asking Congress to remove one of the greatest obstacles to domestic vaccine production, the growing burden of litigation. In the past three decades, the number of vaccine manufacturers in America has plummeted as the industry has been flooded with lawsuits. Today, there is only one manufacturer in the United States that can produce influenza vaccine. That leaves our Nation vulnerable in the event of a pandemic. We must increase the number of vaccine manufacturers in our country and improve our domestic production capacity. So, Congress must pass liability protection for the makers of lifesaving vaccines.

By making wise investments in technology and breaking down barriers to vaccine production, we're working toward a clear goal: In the event of a pandemic, we must have enough vaccine for every American.

The third part of our strategy is to ensure that we are ready to respond to a pandemic outbreak. A pandemic is unlike other natural disasters; outbreaks can happen simultaneously in hundreds or even thousands of locations at the same time. And unlike storms or floods, which strike in an instant and then recede, a pandemic can continue spreading destruction in repeated waves that can last for a year or more.

To respond to a pandemic, we must have emergency plans in place in all 50 States and every local community. We must ensure that all levels of government are ready to act to contain an outbreak. We must be able to deliver vaccines and other treatments to frontline responders and at-risk populations.

So my administration is working with public health officials in the medical community to develop effective pandemic emergency plans. We're working at the Federal level. We're looking at ways and options to coordinate our response with State and local leaders. I've asked Mike Leavitt—Secretary Leavitt—to bring together State and local public health officials from across the Nation to discuss their plans for a pandemic and to help them improve pandemic planning at the community level. I'm asking Congress to provide \$583 million for pandemic preparedness, including \$100 million to help States complete and exercise their pandemic plans now, before a pandemic strikes.

If an influenza pandemic strikes, every nation, every State in this Union, and every community in these States must be ready.

To respond to a pandemic, we need medical personnel and adequate supplies of equipment. In a pandemic, everything from syringes to hospital beds, respirators, masks, and protective equipment would be in short supply. So the Federal Government is stockpiling critical supplies in locations across America as part of the Strategic National Stockpile. The Department of Health and Human Services is helping States create rosters of medical personnel who are willing to help alleviate local shortfalls during a pandemic. And every Federal department involved in health care is expanding plans to ensure that all Federal medical facilities, personnel, and response capabilities are avail-

able to support local communities in the event of a pandemic crisis.

To respond to a pandemic, the American people need to have information to protect themselves and others. In a pandemic, an infection carried by one person can be transmitted to many other people, and so every American must take personal responsibility for stopping the spread of the virus. To provide Americans with more information about pandemics, we're launching a new web site, [pandemicflu.gov](http://pandemicflu.gov). That ought to be easy for people to remember: [pandemicflu.gov](http://pandemicflu.gov). The web site will keep our citizens informed about the preparations underway, steps they can take now to prepare for a pandemic, and what every American can do to decrease their risk of contracting and spreading the disease in the event of an outbreak.

To respond to a pandemic, members of the international community will continue to work together. An influenza pandemic would be an event with global consequences, and therefore we'll continue to meet to develop a global response. We've called nations together in the past and will continue to call nations together to work with public health experts to better coordinate our efforts to deal with a disaster.

Now, all the steps I've outlined today require immediate resources. Because a pandemic could strike at any time, we can't waste time in preparing. So to meet all our goals, I'm requesting a total of \$7.1 billion in emergency funding from the United States Congress. By making critical investments today, we'll strengthen our ability to safeguard the American people in the awful event of a devastating global pandemic and, at the same time, will bring our Nation's public health and medical infrastructure more squarely in the 21st century.

The steps I've outlined will also help our Nation in other critical ways. By perfecting cell-based technologies now, we will be able to produce vaccines for a range of illnesses and save countless lives. By strengthening our domestic vaccine industry, we can help ensure that our Nation will never again have a shortage of vaccine for seasonal flu. And by putting in place and exercising pandemic emergency plans across the Nation, we can help our Nation prepare for other dangers,

such as a terrorist attack using chemical or biological weapons.

Leaders at every level of government have a responsibility to confront dangers before they appear and engage the American people on the best course of action. It is vital that our Nation discuss and address the threat of pandemic flu now. There is no pandemic flu in our country or in the world at this time, but if we wait for a pandemic to appear, it will be too late to prepare, and one day many lives could be needlessly lost because we failed to act today.

By preparing now, we can give our citizens some peace of mind knowing that our Nation is ready to act at the first sign of danger and that we have the plans in place to prevent and, if necessary, withstand an influenza pandemic.

Thank you for coming today to let me outline my strategy. Thank the United States Congress for considering this measure. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:04 a.m. in the William H. Natcher Conference Center at the National Institutes of Health. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### **Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Funding for the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response**

*November 1, 2005*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

Today, I outlined a strategy to address the threat of avian and pandemic influenza. This strategy is designed to meet three critical goals: to detect and contain outbreaks before they spread across the world, to protect the American people by stockpiling vaccines and antiviral drugs and accelerating the development of new vaccine technologies, and to ensure that Federal, State, and local communities are prepared for potential domestic outbreaks.

To provide the necessary resources to immediately begin the implementation of this strategy, I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests, totaling \$7.1 billion, for

the Departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Defense, Homeland Security, the Interior, State, and Veterans Affairs, as well as for International Assistance Programs.

I hereby designate the proposals in the amount requested herein as emergency requirements, and I urge the Congress to act expeditiously on this request to ensure the country is prepared for this growing danger.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

### **Executive Order 13389—Creation of the Gulf Coast Recovery and Rebuilding Council**

*November 1, 2005*

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5121–5206) (the “Stafford Act”), and in order to further strengthen Federal support for the recovery and rebuilding of the Gulf Coast region affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Policy.** It is the policy of the United States to provide effective, integrated, and fiscally responsible support from across the Federal Government to support State, local, and tribal governments, the private sector, and faith-based and other community humanitarian relief organizations in the recovery and rebuilding of the Gulf Coast region affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

**Sec. 2. Establishment.** (a) There is established, within the Executive Office of the President, the Gulf Coast Recovery and Rebuilding Council (the “Council”). The Assistant to the President for Economic Policy shall serve as the Chairman of the Council (the “Chairman”). The Council shall consist exclusively of the following members or full-time Federal officers or employees designated by them, respectively:

- (i) Secretary of the Treasury;
- (ii) Secretary of Defense;
- (iii) Attorney General;
- (iv) Secretary of the Interior;
- (v) Secretary of Agriculture;
- (vi) Secretary of Commerce;
- (vii) Secretary of Labor;
- (viii) Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- (ix) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;
- (x) Secretary of Transportation;
- (xi) Secretary of Energy;
- (xii) Secretary of Education;
- (xiii) Secretary of Veterans Affairs;
- (xiv) Secretary of Homeland Security;
- (xv) Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (xvi) Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers;
- (xvii) Administrator of the Small Business Administration;
- (xviii) Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (xix) Coordinator of Federal Support for the Recovery and Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast Region;
- (xx) Assistant to the President for Economic Policy;
- (xxi) Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy;
- (xxii) Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism; and
- (xxiii) Such other officers and employees of the executive branch as the Chairman may from time to time designate.

(b) The Chairman, in consultation with the Coordinator, shall convene and preside over meetings of the Council, determine its agenda, direct its work, and, as appropriate to particular subject matters, establish and direct subgroups of the Council, which shall consist of Council members or their designees under subsection 2(a) of this order, and including those officers and employees of the executive branch as designated by the Chairman.

**Sec. 3. Functions of Council.** The Council shall:

- (a) at the request of the Chairman, the Coordinator of Federal Support for the Recovery and Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast Region, or any agency head who is a member of the Council (subject to the approval of the Chair-

man), promptly review and provide advice and guidance, for the purpose of furthering the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, regarding any issue relating to the implementation of that policy;

- (b) make recommendations to the President, as appropriate, regarding any issue considered by the Council pursuant to section 3(a) of this order; and

- (c) give no vote or veto over the activities or advice of the Council to any individual to whom subsection (b) of this section refers.

**Sec. 4. General.** (a) To the extent permitted by law:

- (i) agencies shall assist and provide information to the Council for the performance of its functions under this order; and

- (ii) the Director of the Office of Administration shall provide or arrange for the provision of administrative support to the Council.

- (b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

- (c) This order shall be implemented in a manner consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

- (d) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

**Sec. 5. Termination.** The Council shall terminate 3 years from the date of this order, unless extended by the President.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
November 1, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 3, 2005]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 4.



**Executive Order 13390—  
Establishment of a Coordinator of  
Federal Support for the Recovery  
and Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast  
Region**

*November 1, 2005*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 *et seq.*) and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5121–5206) (the “Stafford Act”), and to further strengthen Federal support for the recovery and rebuilding of the Gulf Coast region affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Policy.** It is the policy of the United States to provide effective, integrated, and fiscally responsible support from across the Federal Government to support State, local, and tribal governments, the private sector, and faith-based and other community humanitarian relief organizations in the recovery and rebuilding of the Gulf Coast region affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita (the “Federal Response”).

**Sec. 2. Establishment of Coordinator.** The Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) shall establish in the Department of Homeland Security the position of Coordinator of Federal Support for the Recovery and Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast Region (Coordinator). The Coordinator shall be selected by the President and shall be appointed by and report directly to the Secretary. The Secretary shall make available to the Coordinator such personnel, funds, and other resources as may be appropriate to enable the Coordinator to carry out the Coordinator’s mission.

**Sec. 3. Mission and Functions of Coordinator.** (a) The Coordinator’s mission shall be to work with executive departments and agencies to ensure the proper implementation of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order by coordinating the Federal Response. The Coordinator shall be the principal point of contact for the President and his senior advisors with respect to the Federal Response.

(b) Working with the input of all appropriate heads of executive departments and agencies, the Coordinator shall lead the process to develop the principles governing and define the goals of the Federal Response. The Coordinator shall communicate those principles and goals to all Federal officials involved in the Federal Response.

(c) Working with the input of all appropriate heads of executive departments and agencies, the Coordinator shall lead the development and monitor the implementation of the specific policies and programs that constitute the Federal Response, and ensure that those policies and programs are consistent with the principles and goals of the Federal Response.

(d) The Coordinator shall serve as the primary point of contact within the executive branch with the Congress, State and local governments, the private sector, and community leaders regarding the Federal Response. Working with the input of all appropriate heads of executive departments and agencies, the Coordinator shall be responsible for managing information flow, requests for actions, and discussions regarding the Federal Response with the Congress, State and local governments, the private sector, and community leaders.

**Sec. 4. Duties of Heads of Departments and Agencies.** Heads of executive departments and agencies shall respond promptly to any request by the Coordinator, and shall, consistent with applicable law, provide such information as the Coordinator deems necessary to carry out the Coordinator’s mission, and shall otherwise cooperate with the Coordinator to the greatest extent practicable to facilitate the performance of the Coordinator’s mission.

**Sec. 5. General Provisions.** (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) authority granted by law to an agency or the head thereof;
- (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals; or
- (iii) the chain of command over the Armed Forces provided in section 162(b) of title 10, United States Code.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law, subject to the availability of appropriations, and shall terminate 3 years from the date of this order.

(c) As used in this order, the term “agency” has the meaning set forth for the term “executive agency” in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, excluding the Government Accountability Office.

(d) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
November 1, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 3, 2005]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 4.

### **Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Sudan**

*November 1, 2005*

On November 3, 1997, by Executive Order 13067, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Sudan pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan. Because the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on November 3, 1997, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond November 3, 2005. Therefore, consistent with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C.

1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Sudan.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
November 1, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:19 a.m., November 1, 2005]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2.

### **Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Sudan**

*November 1, 2005*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Sudan emergency is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2005. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2, 2004 (69 *FR* 63915).

The crisis between the United States and Sudan constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan that led to the declaration of a national emergency on November 3, 1997, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Sudan and maintain in force

comprehensive sanctions against Sudan to respond to this threat.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
November 1, 2005.

### **Message to the House of Representatives Returning an Enrolled Bill for Technical Corrections**

*November 1, 2005*

*To the House of Representatives:*

Consistent with House Concurrent Resolution 276, I am hereby returning the enrolled bill H.R. 3765, "An Act to extend through December 31, 2007, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits," to the House of Representatives for the purposes of making necessary corrections.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
November 1, 2005.

### **Interview With Foreign Print Journalists**

*November 1, 2005*

**The President.** A couple of comments, and then I'll answer some questions, two apiece. Then I've got to go back to work.

I've always felt that good foreign policy starts in your neighborhood. So this trip is a continuation of the United States working with different countries and me working with leaders to have a good relationship in the neighborhood. I remember the first Summit of the Americas I went to, which was in Canada. And in the opening comments, it struck me that it's an amazing neighborhood when there's only—every country is a democracy except for one.

And so part of the reason, to me, and part of the reasons to have multilateral diplomacy, which this is, coupled with a lot of bilateral action, is to continue to foster democracy. Democracy is the best hope of all. Democ-

racy is the form of government that can best respond to the demands of the people.

I also strongly believe that we have a great opportunity to deal with job creation or poverty by putting a system in place that encourages economic growth and entrepreneurship. At the first Summit of the Americas we talked about the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, which basically says that a trading hemisphere is one that is more likely to be able to address the needs of people, more likely to be able to address poverty, more likely to be able to help countries' balance sheets be firmed up.

Since then, we've entered into bilateral trading agreements with Chile, multilateral trading agreements with—through CAFTA-DR, and we'll continue to pursue trading agreements bilaterally, multilaterally, as well as worldwide. And I'm looking forward to speaking to all my fellow friends and leaders down there about the Doha round, particularly President Lula. And we can talk about that, if you like, later on. But he's played a very constructive role and can continue to play a constructive role in getting the Doha round up and running. The United States has an obligation to make sure that we put forth policies that encourage the process to move on, and we've done so, particularly on agriculture, which is—people who follow this very closely understand this is a very difficult issue for some. And we took a leadership position on that.

But I'm looking forward to talking about that. And the reason why trade is so vital is because, particularly when addressing poverty, that, you know, grants and loans and—pale in comparison to the amount of good that can be done as commerce develops at all levels of government—at all levels of society, as a result of trade. The World Bank estimates that 300 million people will be eliminated from the poverty rolls as the result of a successful Doha round. And so that's going to be an important subject.

And finally, good governance is an important subject. One of the most interesting policy initiatives that this administration has put forward is called the Millennium Challenge Account, which basically says that if you're a poor country, that we want to participate in helping you, so long as you're honest and

invest in the people through health and education. It's a good governance initiative that goes hand in hand with job creation, eliminating poverty, and democracy.

And so those are important subjects. So I'm looking forward to going. It's going to be a—I've never been to Argentina. I'm looking forward to going to Argentina. I hear it's a spectacular country. I've never been to Brazil. I'm looking forward to going to Brazil. And I've never been to Panama. So this will be a great experience for me to continue visiting these magnificent countries in our neighborhood.

With that, we'll start. Jorge [Jorge Elias, La Nacion], *como yo*?

#### **Argentina-U.S. Relations/International Monetary Fund**

**Q.** Mr. President, in Argentina, you will have a bilateral meeting with President Kirchner.

**The President.** Si.

**Q.** What I want to know—sources of the government told me that they would ask you about more cooperation on support for Argentina, you know, in the IMF fund——

**The President.** IMF.

**Q.** Exactly.

**The President.** Please don't tell me that the government leaks secrets about conversations to the——

**Q.** Well, I have my sources in the government.

**The President.** You do? Okay, well, I'm not going to ask you who they are, of course. [Laughter]

**Q.** No, please.

**The President.** Inside joke here, for my team. [Laughter] First of all, I was more than happy and my government was more than happy to help Argentina with the IMF crisis. We became involved with the government in trying to get the issue resolved. I think any objective observer would say that the U.S. participation was helpful. And we were more than pleased to do so. And by the way, our help was justified by the economic recovery of the country. It's been noteworthy for those who were skeptical about U.S. involvement in the IMF to see that the economy is growing robustly and that the government is stewards of the people's money and that

Kirchner and his government did a good job of negotiating on behalf of the people of Argentina. So we've got a record of involvement.

Secondly, since he has proven himself to be capable of performing, it seems like to me that the best policy ought to be for the Argentina—Argentine Government to deal directly with the IMF, without the U.S. having to be a middleman. And so that's what I'll tell—I guess I just told him what's going to happen in the private meeting—[laughter]—is that—no, we will, of course, listen to any request from a friend. But it seems like to me that President Kirchner and his economic team, his financial team, has laid the groundwork for being plenty capable of dealing with the IMF directly.

Paulo [Paulo Sotero, O Estado de San Paulo].

#### **Brazil-U.S. Relations/Trade**

**Q.** Mr. President, you have been very positive, sometimes even effusive about your relationship or your dialog with President Lula, and Brazil-U.S. relationship in general. But not much has come out of this, in terms of concrete initiatives. For instance, our main joint project, FTAA-ALCA has gone sort of backwards; it's stalled. So why is that so? Why is this dialog that superficially seems so good, doesn't produce more in terms of complete results?

**The President.** Well, first of all, we do have a good relationship, and I think that started with a lot of the observers. I'm not suggesting it started with you, Paulo, but nevertheless, I think people had this vision about George W. one way, and Lula the other, and that there's no way that these two men could possibly find common ground. I think that's—at least I sense that, particularly coming out of some of the South American press.

And yet our first meeting in the Oval Office was very warm and cordial. We shared the same deep concern to help alleviate hunger and poverty. We may have a different kind of political sense of things initially, but nevertheless, we share the same goals, and therefore have established a good, cordial, frank relationship.

Secondly, trade between Brazil and the United States is growing. That's important.

That's not a given. Secondly, Doha—you're right, the FTAA has stalled; I agree. On the other hand, at this point in time, the Doha round really trumps the FTAA as a priority, because the Doha round not only involves our neighborhood, it involves the whole world. And I spoke to President Lula yesterday, and I thanked him for the spirit of cooperation on the Doha round. Brazil is a very important player in Doha. It commands the respect of not only the United States and the EU but also other countries which may or may not follow its lead. But nevertheless, when Brazil speaks, people listen carefully.

And one of the parts of the strategy has been to make sure that—and, obviously, the Brazilian agriculture is an important issue for President Lula, as it is for the Brazilian people. And he has expressed concern in the past that the United States would be unwilling to make a subsidy—a statement on subsidies that is profound, which I just did. He appreciated it. Both of us were somewhat disappointed in the EU response, because the whole theory has been the EU and the United States show good faith on agriculture, the rest of the world will show good faith on services and intellectual property rights and the other issues that are important to get Doha moving.

But my only point is, there's been good cooperation. I mean, this—Doha hasn't finished yet, but it's important for the world, not only Brazil and America but for everybody else that Doha move forward, and there is a spirit of cooperation between Brazil and the United States to see if that can't get done. As a matter of fact, the previous ministerial on WTO—I remember speaking to President Lula about getting our trade ministers together. He agreed; I agreed, and so the process moved forward.

Thirdly, in our own hemisphere, we have issues such as Haiti. Brazil has been the leader of the peacekeeping force, has done very good work through the U.N.—through the United Nations. The United States is supportive of that process. As you know, we've got a lot of equity in Haiti, as does Brazil. It's important for us to work closely together, and we will. And we're involved with the democracy movement there, as is Brazil. So in other words, there's a collaborative effort to

promote democracy in the neighborhood. So whether it be trade, or potential of even further trade, or whether it be working together on the science and technology, sharing of science and technology, or whether it be in promoting democracy in the neighborhood, the relationship is vital and important.

Brazil is a big, big, important country in this world, and the United States recognizes that.

Betty [Betty Brannan], *La Prensa*.

### **Panama**

**Q.** Yes, Mr. President. Do you see parallels between the U.S. invasion of Panama and the invasion now of Iraq? And does that—has that motivated your choice to go to Panama at this time?

**The President.** They're totally different circumstances, in that, obviously, one happened in our own neighborhood, one happened far away; one happened after fair warning, one happened after a long stay in the United Nations. Both actions, hopefully, will lead to democracies and a better world for the citizens in those countries in which they live.

And, no, I'm not going to Panama for that reason. I'm going to Panama because Panama is a friend. I'm going to Panama because I want to see the canal and thank the government and the Panamanian people for being such good stewards of the canal, of being smart on security matters, recognizing the importance of the canal for trade, and for doing a fine job. And I want to see the canal firsthand, which I've never seen.

I told the President when he was here, that I would consider coming. He's a good Texas A&M graduate, as you might know. We had a very cordial discussion, and I thought it would be a good thing to go there. I'm looking forward to it.

Secondly, I want to talk about trade. Panama is not a part of CAFTA. It makes sense for Panama to be a part of the trading process that's going on. CAFTA is very important. It's important for countries south of the CAFTA region. It's important for countries north of the CAFTA region. It's important that these young democracies have a—you know, have the opportunity to sell products into our market, and we have an opportunity

to sell products into their market on a level playing field, so as to create opportunities for people. Opening markets creates more markets. It could be markets for Argentina, markets for Brazil. The more available customers there are to businesses large and small, the more commerce will flow. And so CAFTA is important, and it makes sense for Panama to be considered to be a part of these trading agreements that are growing. And so I'm going for a lot of reasons. Thank you.

Macarena [Macarena Vidal Liy, EFE News Services].

### **U.S. Relations With Latin America**

**Q.** Like the song.

**The President.** Si. Where do you live, Macarena?

**Q.** I live here.

**The President.** Oh, good. Where are you from?

**Q.** From Spain, but I ran away from that song 15 years ago. [Laughter] It's following me all over the world.

You have talked about the importance of having good relationships within the neighborhood, and yet there seem to be worrying signs for the U.S. and Latin America. The polls trend to growing anti-Americanism feeling in the region; the Secretary General in the OAS is not the man you backed at the beginning; either American summit that took place recently finished with a declaration that was not fully to the taste of the United States. Is the United States at risk of losing its influence in Latin America?

**The President.** Well, one reason why we have summits such as this is to remind people that we want to be good neighbors and good friends. And we share a lot of values, common values together. I mean, I'm going to a country, Argentina, that's a proud democracy. I'm going to a country, Brazil, which is—which has had a peaceful election, which was a very important step. I'm going to Panama, which wasn't always a democracy and now is a flourishing democracy.

And it's a chance to say to people in the neighborhood, "We share values, rule of law, justice, human rights, human dignity, the right for women to participate equally in society." These are very powerful messages. I will come and say to the people, the leadership,

and whoever is listening down there, that our markets are open, so long as you open your markets. In other words, "Let's have open markets." The United States has got a strong economy, and it makes sense for countries to want to trade with us. And we want to trade with them.

And so the message is one of jobs and democracy and honesty and open government. Look, I understand not everybody agrees with the decisions I've made, but that's not unique to Central or South America. Truth of the matter is, there's people who disagree with the decisions I've made all over the world. And I understand that, but that's what happens when you make decisions.

And so I feel like relations are good. I think just so long as America never abandons her principles, that are universal in application, that this country will be fine. And listen, politicians come and go, but what doesn't change is the importance of standing on principle and working with our friends in Central and South America that agree with the same principles.

As I repeat, I'm going to three countries that stand squarely on the principles. We may not agree on every issue. I understand that. And I don't expect people down there to—first of all, I don't think good relations necessarily mean somebody has to agree with America 100 percent of the time. That's not the definition of good relations. Good relations is mutual respect and a desire to work together to solve common problems and, most importantly, though, adherence to common values. I keep saying that.

Democracy is not an American value; it's a universal value. Human rights and human dignity is not uniquely American; it's important. It's important in Argentina as the history of your country has shown. It's very important in Brazil. It's been equally important in Panama, the notion of human rights and human dignity. There was a period of time in your country, just like there was a period of time in my country, where there wasn't a great adherence to human rights universally.

And so, the concept of democracy, as working through these issues, sharing experiences, and working together to continue the

march of decency and freedom, is a very important part of this agenda.

Jorge, *uno mas*.

### **Venezuela/Energy**

**Q.** Okay. Mr. President, President Chavez asked the Argentine Government to build a nuclear reactor for energy in Venezuela. Is that a danger for the region? Is that a danger for the United States?

**The President.** Repeat that again. Asked the Argentine Government to build a nuclear reactor?

**Q.** The Argentine Government to build a nuclear reactor for energy in Venezuela?

**The President.** Well, it's—my view is, is that there are international safeguards that are very important that all nations adhere to, that there must be total transparency. I have proposed that we think of an international concept of sharing highly enriched uranium necessary for the running of a nuclear powerplant, for power, with countries, and that—collecting that material and disposing of it in a reasonable and a sound way. It's—I guess if I were a taxpayer in Venezuela, I would wonder about the energy supply that Venezuela has.

But maybe it makes sense; I haven't really studied the proposal. And I look forward to—hope President Kirchner shares with me the concept, the notion, the idea.

**Q.** You will talk with him about this?

**The President.** If he wants to talk about it, I'd be curious to know. It's the first I've heard of it, and it's an interesting question.

### **President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil**

**Q.** Mr. President, about relations, the building of democracy in our hemisphere, and for ideological—apart to the ideological reasons, apart for reasons relating to Brazil's own interest, President Lula has very close, friendly relationships with leaders that are considered enemies of the United States—Fidel Castro, Chavez, Evo Morales in Bolivia, that may become a President. But the U.S., and you reiterated that, continues to view Brazil as spark of the construction of democracy in our hemisphere. Could you explain to us how this dynamic works between

you and President Lula, of having those different partners?

**The President.** Well, first of all, it's certainly not the role of the United States, nor me, to say to President Lula, "Here's your list of friends. You can't talk to somebody." He's the duly elected leader of a great country, and he can make decisions to discuss matters with whomever he chooses. And frankly, it may make sense, in his position as a giant country in South America to have relations with every leader on the—in South America or the Caribbean.

And so I've never really discussed with him who all his friends are. I never had that discussion. On the other hand, I do think it's useful at times if I've got concerns about matters in the hemisphere, to be able to pick up the phone to President Lula and say, "I've got a concern with so-and-so. I've got a concern about this. Would you mind looking into that," or, "Is there a chance we can work together to resolve a problem?"

**Q.** —would have done it.

**The President.** I've talked in general about my concerns about people eroding democratic institutions—I will never reveal a private conversation with another leader—but I have. And frankly, it's—he's in a unique position, let's put it that way, and I respect that. And I think it's important that he be in a position of influence with a lot of countries in the hemisphere to promote the common values that we agree in.

No, I've got respect for President Lula. He's an interesting man. Obviously, we've come from different backgrounds and different perspectives, obviously different countries. And yet, he's—again I repeat to you my first—I'm kind of getting way off base here, but just to share some color. One of my most important initiatives is this Faith-Based and Community-Based Initiative here in the United States. I believe that oftentimes government is limited in its capacity to help save lives. And I know that there are grassroots programs that are more likely to be able to go into some of the most hopeless neighborhoods and to corners of despair and be able to help save lives by, first of all, being motivated by love, and it's sometimes helpful to have people motivated by love have access

to money in order to be able to solve problems. And I felt like we ought to open up government funding to competitive bidding by faith-based organizations.

And I shared this with President Lula. And the reason—I shared this vision and this concept as a way to deal with some of society's intractable problems. And he was sharing with me his vision about dealing with his hunger initiative, for example. And so I was impressed by a person who is willing to take on some of these tough issues in order to make his respective country a better place, as I'm trying to do in mine.

Yes, Betty.

### **Panama-U.S. Relations**

**Q.** My question is about security, Mr. President, in the region. Panama is a strategic location, which has been both a strength and a vulnerability. And whenever Panamanians hear talk about canal security and frontier—border security with Colombia, there is the suspicion that perhaps the United States would like to reestablish a military presence on the isthmus, or at least recreate a military out of the police force we have, because we eliminated the army after the fall of the dictatorship. Could you address those concerns, please?

**The President.** We have no plans for a base, and sovereign governments are just that, they're sovereign. And if they say, "We'd like to work on some kind of security arrangement," that's not the case with Panama right now, but if that were the case, we'd be openminded. But we have no specific plans at all for a base. And let me ask my National Security Adviser to make sure I don't get out on a limb that you would then immediately saw off. *[Laughter]*

**Q.** Not I.

**The President.** Good. But, no, I mean, one reason why you have good, strong diplomatic relations is that you're able just to share thoughts and talk about issues that matter. But no, there's no plans for that.

**Q.** Or for some kind of military presence that is less than a base, or forward operating location or something?

**The President.** I'm not aware of that, if that's the case. I presume the President, if he is interested in discussing that with me,

like a forward operating base, would be—will bring it up to me. Let me just say, it hasn't made it to the Oval Office yet, and so if there's any rumors to that effect, I would chalk them up as rumors.

**Q.** Thank you.

**The President.** But I'm confident that if this is on his mind, he'll bring it up. I don't recall he brought it up the last time he was in the Oval Office. Again, violating the principle of telling private conversations to journalists.

Macarena.

### **U.S. Relations With Latin America**

**Q.** I promise I won't dance.

**The President.** You can dance here. You'd be the first person to dance on the Roosevelt table since I've been the President.

**Q.** I'm not supposed to be the star. *[Laughter]*

**The President.** Pretty good sense of humor there, Macarena. Very good.

**Q.** Thanks. What do you think about the prospective of—in the Bolivian election, the victory of an overtly leftist candidate, Evo Morales, of his peasant movement? And in that case, are you worried about a possible "axis of evil" in Latin America—Venezuela and Bolivia?

**The President.** Macarena, one thing is, is that I've learned not to make political forecasts and prognostications, whether it be here at home or elsewhere. The thing that we're interested in is fair elections, free and fair elections where people have the chance to express themselves at the ballot box. And that's what democracy is all about—free from foreign influence, free from corruption, open elections, so that people can feel free and comfortable to vote. And that's what we look at. We don't—I don't speak out trying to interfere in the local process.

And so, we will see how the people vote. With our Embassy, of course, we'll be there involved with—at least to the extent asked to be involved, with making sure the elections are free and fair. And that's all you can ask. And then the people will decide who they want, and that's what democracy does. Democracy—and that's what, by the way, differentiates democracy from other forms of government. Sometimes you've had different



forms of government in our own hemisphere and around the world, where the people don't decide but an elite decides, a handful of people gets to decide the fate of the people. And that, throughout history, has led to resentment and hatreds and turmoil and conflict.

And that's why this trip is important, because it will give us a chance to, again, speak to these universal values and universal truths. And one of the universal truths is, democracies lead to peace. Democracies don't fight each other. Democracies are capable of having different types of leaders be able to work in concert to solve common problems. Democracies respond to—and by responding to the will of the people, democracy tends to be able to more likely lift up people, give people a chance to succeed. I strongly believe that. And I believe that these concepts are applicable to all peoples.

I believe freedom is universal. It's not contained within one country or one religion or one type of person. There's a universality to freedom. I believe mothers around the world desire their children to grow up in freedom. It doesn't matter whether you're Muslim, Christian, Jew, Hindu. That's what I believe. And I believe if you speak Spanish or English—it doesn't matter—you want to be free—or Portuguese.

And so these are valuable lessons that we should have—that we must learn around the world. And to the extent that people adhere to those principles, the United States of America says, the people matter. On the other hand, if we think that people are disrupting the normal course of democracy, unwinding institutions such as the free press, not allowing people to worship freely, we'll speak up. We'll speak up, as I hope others do as well.

As I say, there's universality to freedom that's important, and those of us who are fortunate enough to live in free and democratic societies should work to encourage others to make sure they hold those institutions dear. There are just some institutions that are vital for a society to be free and open and transparent, for the good of the people, for the good of the people.

Listen, thanks for coming by. Looking forward to the trip.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 1:18 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil; President Nestor Kirchner of Argentina; and President Martin Torrijos Espino of Panama. Journalists referred to Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza of the Organization of the American States; President Hugo Chavez Frias of Venezuela; President Fidel Castro of Cuba; and Evo Morales, Presidential candidate in Bolivia. The transcript of this interview was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 2. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this interview. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

## **Proclamation 7952—National Adoption Month, 2005**

*November 2, 2005*

*By the President of the United States of America*

### **A Proclamation**

All children deserve strong families with mothers and fathers who are there to protect and love them. Every year, thousands of Americans extend the gift of family to a child through adoption. During National Adoption Month, we recognize the compassion of adoptive and foster families and renew our pledge to finding loving and stable homes for children in need.

Many of our citizens have revealed the good heart of America by opening their homes to children through adoption. We are grateful to every family who provides a safe, nurturing environment for their adopted children. Last year, an estimated 51,000 children were adopted from our Nation's foster care system, and tens of thousands more were adopted through private agencies and from overseas. Today, more than 118,000 children remain in foster care in the United States awaiting adoption. On November 19, National Adoption Day, thousands of these children will celebrate the finalization of their adoptions and go to their new homes, secure in the love of families they can now call their own.

My Administration remains committed to encouraging adoption. This year, 24 States,

the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico were recognized through our Adoption Incentives Program for their efforts to enhance their adoption and child welfare programs. These efforts have contributed to an increase in adoptions from 28,000 per year in 1996 to an estimated 51,000 in 2004. In addition, the AdoptUSKids initiative, which includes public service announcements in English and Spanish and a website, [www.AdoptUSKids.org](http://www.AdoptUSKids.org), has helped place more than 5,000 children in permanent homes over the last 3 years.

As we observe National Adoption Month, we recognize the many caring families who have made a difference in a child's life through adoption. By giving these children the love, guidance, and support they need to grow, adoptive and foster families play a vital role in helping the next generation of Americans achieve their dreams.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2005 as National Adoption Month. I call on all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to honor adoptive families and to participate in efforts to find permanent homes for waiting children.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this second day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:58 a.m., November 3, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 4.

## **Proclamation 7953—National Diabetes Month, 2005**

*November 2, 2005*

*By the President of the United States of America*

### **A Proclamation**

Americans of all ages and backgrounds live with diabetes. Nearly 21 million of our citizens have this disease, and researchers estimate that more than 6 million of these individuals have not been diagnosed and are unaware they have it. National Diabetes Month is an opportunity to educate citizens about diabetes and what they can do to help prevent and treat this disease.

Type 1 diabetes, once known as juvenile diabetes, destroys insulin-producing cells and usually strikes children and teenagers. Nearly 95 percent of all diabetics suffer from type 2 diabetes, a condition in which the body fails to produce or to use insulin properly. Type 2 diabetes typically occurs in inactive or obese adults or individuals with a family history of the disease and now increasingly appears in inactive or overweight children. Because of a lack of insulin, diabetics face potential blindness, nontraumatic amputations, kidney disease, and increased risk of heart disease and stroke.

Studies have shown that minor weight loss and daily exercise can help prevent and reduce the effects of diabetes. I encourage all Americans to follow the new dietary guidelines released by the Department of Health and Human Services earlier this year that emphasize the importance of nutritious foods and regular physical activity. In addition to taking steps toward a healthier lifestyle, Americans should consult their doctors for preventive screenings to detect diabetes in its earliest stages. Under the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, these screenings are now covered for Medicare beneficiaries. These simple tests can save lives and help prevent this potentially life-threatening illness.

My Administration remains committed to fighting diabetes through research and prevention, and we will continue to support the

National Institutes of Health (NIH) and others in their efforts to combat this disease. This year, the NIH dedicated more than \$1 billion to diabetes research. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the NIH are also sponsoring the National Diabetes Education Program, which has helped to inform more than 180 million Americans in the last 3 years about healthy choices and the risk factors of diabetes.

During National Diabetes Month and throughout the year, we pay tribute to the doctors, nurses, scientists, researchers, and all those dedicated to the fight against diabetes. I urge the millions of Americans living with this disease and all citizens to lead healthy lives and to motivate others to do the same. By working together to prevent this disease, we can improve the quality of life for more Americans.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2005 as National Diabetes Month. I call upon all Americans to learn more about the risk factors and symptoms associated with diabetes and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this second day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:58 a.m., November 3, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 4.

### **Proclamation 7954—National Hospice Month, 2005**

*November 2, 2005*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

The great strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. During Na-

tional Hospice Month, we recognize hospice caregivers who are building a more compassionate society, where life is valued and those in need can count on the love and support of others. We also recognize the courage and strength of terminally ill patients and their families.

When we help those who hurt and those in pain, we become part of our Nation's armies of compassion. Hospice programs provide an option for individuals with terminal illnesses to be cared for as they choose in their final days, often in their own homes and surrounded by the love of their families. The doctors, nurses, counselors, volunteers, and others who provide hospice care throughout our country bring comfort to those most in need every day, treating terminally ill patients with the dignity and respect they deserve. By dedicating themselves to the care of those approaching the end of life, they demonstrate great love.

The compassion reflected in hospice care is one of the reasons America has the best health care system in the world. Our whole Nation is grateful for the good work of our dedicated medical professionals and hospice caregivers. By taking the time to care for others, they are making America a better place.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2005 as National Hospice Month. I encourage all our citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities. I also ask Americans to recognize our health care professionals and volunteers for their contributions to helping those facing terminal illness receive quality care.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this second day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:58 a.m., November 3, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 4.

## **Proclamation 7955—Veterans Day, 2005**

*November 2, 2005*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

### **A Proclamation**

Americans owe a great debt of gratitude to those who have sacrificed for our liberty and for the security of our Nation. We express deep appreciation to our veterans—the men and women who stepped forward when America needed them, triumphed over brutal enemies, liberated continents, and answered the prayers of millions around the globe.

From the beaches of Normandy and the snows of Korea to the mountains of Afghanistan and the deserts of Iraq, our courageous veterans have sacrificed so that Americans and others could live in freedom. As we mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II this year, we remember the millions of veterans who crossed oceans and defeated two of the most ruthless military forces the world has ever known. The freedom that the children and grandchildren of these veterans now enjoy is a monument to their fallen comrades and the generations of patriots who have served our country.

Through their commitment to freedom, America's veterans have lifted millions of lives and made our country and the world more secure. They have demonstrated to us that freedom is the mightiest force on Earth. We resolve that their sacrifices will always be remembered by a grateful Nation.

With respect for and in recognition of the contributions our service men and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor veterans.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2005, as Veterans Day and urge all Americans to observe November 6 through November 12, 2005, as National Veterans Awareness Week. I urge all Americans to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through cere-

monies and prayers. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to encourage and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I invite civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, businesses, unions, and the media to support this national observance with commemorative expressions and programs.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this second day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:58 a.m., November 3, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 4.

## **Proclamation 7956—National American Indian Heritage Month, 2005**

*November 2, 2005*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

### **A Proclamation**

National American Indian Heritage Month honors the many contributions and accomplishments of American Indians and Alaska Natives. During November, we remember the legacy of the first Americans and celebrate their vibrant and living traditions.

The American Indian experience is central to the American story, and my Administration is committed to helping Native American cultures across the United States continue to flourish. One of the most important ways to ensure a successful future is through education. Over the past 4 years, my Administration has provided more than \$1 billion for the construction and renovation of Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. We also offer direct assistance for educator and counselor training to help make sure every classroom has a qualified teacher and every child has the tools he or she needs to succeed. As we work with tribal leaders to provide students with a superior education that respects the

unique culture and traditions of the community, we can help ensure every child has the opportunity to realize their dreams.

To enhance energy opportunities and strengthen tribal economies, my Administration is working to ease the regulatory barriers associated with tribal energy development. In August, I signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005, allocating \$2 billion in the form of grants, loans, and loan guarantees for exploration, development, and production of energy. This legislation will help ensure that latest energy technologies are being used throughout our country.

Since the earliest days of our Republic, Native Americans have played a vital role in our country's freedom and security. From the Revolutionary War scouts to the Code Talkers of World War II, Native Americans have served in all branches of America's Armed Forces. Today, that proud tradition continues, with Native Americans bravely defending our country in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and helping to spread liberty around the world. America is grateful to all our service men and women who serve and sacrifice in the defense of freedom.

Our young country is home to an ancient, noble, and enduring native culture, and my Administration recognizes the defining principles of tribal sovereignty and the right to self-determination. By working together, government to government, on important education, economic, and energy initiatives, we can strengthen America and build a future of hope and promise for all Native Americans. This month, we pay tribute to the American Indians and Alaska Natives who continue to shape our Nation. I encourage all citizens to learn more about the rich heritage of Native Americans.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2005 as National American Indian Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this second day of November, in

the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:20 a.m., November 4, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 7.

### **Proclamation 7957—National Family Caregivers Month, 2005**

*November 2, 2005*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Each November, as Americans reflect on our many blessings, we observe National Family Caregivers Month and give thanks for the selfless service of family caregivers on behalf of their loved ones in need. The tireless devotion of these Americans brings comfort and peace of mind to our Nation's elderly and to those who are chronically ill or disabled.

Family caregivers play an important role in communities across the United States. They provide most of the homecare services in our country and work hard to meet the emotional and physical needs of the family members and friends for whom they care. Through the National Family Caregiver Support Program, my Administration continues to encourage States and local agencies on aging to partner with faith-based, community, and tribal organizations. These partnerships can offer family caregivers the important information, counseling, training, respite care, and support services they need.

This November, enrollment begins under the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, which offers more affordable access to prescription drugs, better health care choices, and extra help to low-income seniors and beneficiaries with disabilities. This new coverage will help family caregivers, who often inform or make medical decisions for those they care for, by ensuring that their loved ones receive the best health care available.

Every day, family caregivers sacrifice their own needs to offer their loved ones the opportunity to live with dignity and independence in familiar surroundings. Their love, selflessness, and devotion inspire us all and demonstrate the compassionate spirit of America.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2005 as National Family Caregivers Month. I encourage all Americans to honor and support those who serve as caregivers to their family members, friends, and neighbors in need.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this second day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:20 a.m., November 4, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 7.

### **Memorandum on Assignment of Certain Reporting Functions**

*November 2, 2002*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of the State*

*Subject:* Assignment of Certain Reporting Functions

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby assign to you the functions of the President contained within section 1205 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314) to provide the specified report to the Congress.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

### **Remarks at a Dinner Honoring Prince Charles and Duchess Camilla of the United Kingdom**

*November 2, 2005*

**The President.** Your Royal Highness, it is a great honor for Laura and me to host you and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall at the White House. Your visit is a reminder of the unique and enduring bond between the United Kingdom and the United States. Americans know that we have no greater friend than the United Kingdom. And it's my sincere hope that the United Kingdom knows it has no greater admirer than the United States.

Our nations are intimately linked through deep historical and cultural ties, through active commercial and political bonds, and through shared values. Nowhere are those shared values more nobly expressed than in our common commitment to expanding freedom in this world.

In the first part of the 20th century, our nations stood together to ensure that fascism did not prevail in Europe. In the second half of the 20th century, we worked tirelessly to defeat the totalitarian ideology of communism. And today, we're fighting side by side against an ideology of hatred and intolerance to ensure that the 21st century will be one of liberty and hope.

The people of the United States draw great strength from having the United Kingdom as an ally. The nation that defied bombardment from the air in 1940 once again refused to cower when its people were bombed from underground this summer. Your courage and fortitude are an inspiration to people throughout the world.

Just as Britain is a leader in the effort to spread freedom and opportunity abroad, Your Royal Highness is a leader in creating greater opportunity at home. Your compassion and charitable efforts such as the Prince's Trust continue to help more of Britain's young people and entrepreneurs pursue their dreams in life.

Your Royal Highness, your generous spirit, your steadfast leadership, and your devotion to your people are an inspiration. Laura and I are honored to have you and Her Royal Highness as guests this evening, and I'd now

like to offer a toast to the enduring friendship between the United Kingdom and the United States.

**Prince Charles.** Mr. President, Mrs. Bush, ladies and gentlemen, can I just say what a joy it is for both my wife and myself to be with you here in the White House. It brings back many fond and happy memories of my first visit here with my sister. I think it was in 1970, when we came to stay at the White House for the weekend with President and Mrs. Nixon, at the time when the media were busy trying to marry me off to Tricia Nixon. *[Laughter]* And it's very interesting to see the same sort of thing happening to my eldest son. *[Laughter]* So it seems to be an entirely hereditary feature. *[Laughter]*

Mr. President, Sir Winston Churchill, whose mother was, of course, American, and whose bust you have in a place of honor in the Oval Office, once said, after one of his 16 visits to the United States over some 66 years, "The friendliness of the Americans to the traveler from Britain, their unflinching kindness, their generous hospitality are something to marvel at." Well, nothing has changed, Mr. President. We have both most certainly experienced the same generosity and friendliness since our arrival yesterday. And this has been the case on every previous visit I have ever made to this remarkable country.

It is an indication, if I may say so, Mr. President, of how very important and special our close, warm, and enduring relationship with the United States of America is to all of us in the United Kingdom. Our two nations have much in common. We share so much history and tradition, language and culture, and a commitment to democracy and liberty. These enrich the spirit and are founded on those greatest of all gifts—friendship and loyalty.

On Friday, we will meet veterans of our struggle together against evil and tyranny in the Second World War. The selfless service that our parents' generation gave, including, of course, both our fathers—and how wonderful it is, if I may say so, to see President Bush 41 here this evening—and the selfless service that we commemorate in this 60th anniversary year will always stand as a meas-

ure of the commitment, courage, and comradeship of our two great nations.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1944, while we were Allies in arms in that global struggle, Sir Winston Churchill looked forward to what he called, "a lasting union of sympathy and good feeling and loyalty and hope between all the British and American peoples." Well, that is a vision all of us here share.

And, indeed, that lasting union of sympathy has been so amply demonstrated in our own day when we shared with you the full horror of September the 11th, 4 years ago, and more recently, when following the terrorist attacks in London, so many of us in the United Kingdom were profoundly touched by the many messages of steadfast support and solidarity from across the United States.

But our visit is not focused only on the misfortunes that have united our nations. We were particularly pleased to have had the chance this afternoon to go with Mrs. Bush to the inspiring SEED School in Anacostia, a school that offers young people from underprivileged backgrounds the chance to fulfill the potential that each person has. And this incidentally, is what my Prince's Trust has been seeking to do for very nearly 30 years in the United Kingdom, and which has led to over half a million young people being assisted to develop their individual talents and abilities.

And, Mr. President, I am also very conscious of the extraordinary social progress this country has achieved. On the day Rosa Parks is laid to rest, there is a powerful message, I think, here about tolerance and inclusion that has relevance for the whole international community.

My wife and I are deeply grateful to you, Mr. President, and Mrs. Bush for your generous hospitality towards us, but more so, as I am only too conscious of the enormous challenges and responsibilities which face the 43d President of the United States. And I need hardly say that so many people throughout the world look to the United States of America for a lead on the most crucial issues that face our planet and, indeed, the lives of our grandchildren. Truly, the burdens of the world rest on your shoulders.

In conclusion may I propose a toast to you, Mr. President, to Mrs. Bush, and to the people of the United States of America.

*[At this point, the President and Prince Charles offered a toast.]*

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:55 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

### **Statement on Senate Action on Legislation To Reduce Federal Spending**

*November 3, 2005*

Today the Senate took an important step forward in cutting the deficit. I commend Senate leadership and the other Senators who supported this spending reduction legislation, and I congratulate Senator Gregg on its successful passage. Congress needs to send me a spending reduction package this year to keep us on track to cutting the deficit in half by 2009.

### **Statement on Senate Action on Energy Legislation**

*November 3, 2005*

Increasing our domestic energy supply will help lower gasoline prices and utility bills. We can and should produce more crude oil here at home in environmentally responsible ways. The most promising site for oil in America is a 2,000 acre site in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and thanks to technology, we can reach this energy with little impact on the land or wildlife. I applaud the Senate for passing legislation to improve our energy situation with this commonsense approach.

### **Proclamation 7958—National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, 2005**

*November 3, 2005*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize the strength of family members, doctors, nurses, volunteers, and others who provide care for those living with this devastating disease. During this month, we also reaffirm our commitment to victims of this disease. We hope to enhance the quality of life for Alzheimer's patients and improve prevention and treatment.

Approximately 4.5 million Americans are affected by Alzheimer's disease. The disease gradually destroys parts of the brain that control memory, learning, communication, and reason. As it progresses, individuals may also experience changes in behavior and personality, leading to severely impaired cognitive abilities and the need for full-time care and assistance. Age remains the greatest risk factor—the National Institute on Aging estimates that the percentage of people who develop Alzheimer's disease doubles for each 5-year age group beyond 65. Alzheimer's affects nearly half of those over 85.

While there is no known cure or certain treatment, researchers are learning more about what causes this tragic disease and how to control its symptoms. My Administration remains committed to funding medical research programs to help prevent, treat, and find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. The National Institute on Aging has begun new initiatives to improve development and testing of medicines that may slow progression of the disease. The Department of Veterans Affairs is supporting research through its Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers, and the Administration on Aging is working to improve home and community-based services for Alzheimer's patients. By working together, we can learn more about treatment options and bring greater comfort to those afflicted with this disease.



Our Nation is grateful for the scientists, researchers, and health care professionals who are dedicated to treating Alzheimer's patients and finding a cure. We are also grateful for the hard work and compassionate spirit of family members and caregivers. Their efforts reflect the character and spirit of America.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2005 as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this third day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:20 a.m., November 4, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 7.

### **Proclamation 7959—Revoking Proclamation 7924**

*November 3, 2005*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

**Whereas**, the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, 40 U.S.C. 3141–3148, and the provisions of all other acts, Executive Orders, proclamations, rules, regulations, or other directives providing for the payment of wages, which provisions are dependent upon determinations by the Secretary of Labor under section 3142 of title 40, United States Code, were suspended by Proclamation 7924 of September 8, 2005, within specified geographic areas affected by Hurricane Katrina until otherwise provided;

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America,

acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 202 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622, do by this Proclamation revoke, effective November 8, 2005, Proclamation 7924 as to all contracts for which bids are opened or negotiations concluded on or after November 8, 2005.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this third day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:32 a.m., November 7, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 8.

### **Message to the Senate Transmitting the Protocol Amending the France-United States Taxation Convention** *November 4, 2005*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification a Protocol Amending the Convention Between the United States of America and the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Estates, Inheritances, and Gifts, signed at Washington on November 24, 1978 (the "Convention"), signed at Washington on December 8, 2004 (the "Protocol"). Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocol.

The Protocol provides a pro rata unified credit to the estate of a French domiciliary for purposes of computing U.S. estate tax. It allows a limited U.S. "marital deduction" for certain estates if the surviving spouse is not a U.S. citizen. In addition, the Protocol expands the United States jurisdiction to tax its citizens and certain former citizens and long-term residents and makes other changes to the treaty to reflect more closely current U.S. tax-treaty policy.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Protocol and give its advice and consent to ratification.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
November 3, 2005.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 4. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

**Remarks Following Discussions With President Nestor Kirchner of Argentina in Mar del Plata, Argentina**

*November 4, 2005*

**President Kirchner.** We have had an eventful meeting with the President of the United States. We have considered issues related to our bilateral relations between Argentina and the U.S. We have considered the situation in the region. We have listened to each other and what we have to say about domestic matters in our respective countries and how our countries are doing at the moment. I think we have been quite candid in our dialog, and we have spoken quite clearly with the President of the United States.

And as President of the Argentine Republic, I am pleased to have had this meeting, during which we have been able to convey to the President of the United States our thoughts on a wide variety of issues.

So in a nutshell, that's what we have dealt with, and I would now like to give the floor to the President of the U.S.

**President Bush.** Thank you for your hospitality. Laura and I thank you and the Senator for such a warm welcome. This is my first trip to Argentina—I hope it is not my last trip. However, this is not our first meeting. This is our third meeting, and every time we have met, I have come away impressed by your candor, your passion for the people of this beautiful land.

And as we discussed—the first time we met until now, the economy has changed in quite dramatic fashion, thanks to wise decisions you have made. So congratulations for dealing with a difficult circumstance and

making decisions that have improved the lives of your people.

Needless to say, the President was quite firm in his belief that the IMF ought to have a different attitude toward Argentina. He has been an outspoken person for reform. I listened very carefully to his point of view. I was pleased that the United States was helpful during the early part of his term at the IMF, and I suggested that his record is such now that he can take his case to the IMF with a much stronger hand. And so I appreciated the conversation there, and I appreciate your candor.

I also want to thank you, Mr. President, for sending the White Helmets. These were people that came down, health specialists to help some of our folks deal with the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It was a gesture of grand friendship, and the American people are grateful. The American people are grateful for the contributions Argentines have made to our country. I mean, we've got all kinds of people in America—Ginobili—I don't know if you've heard of Manu Ginobili. *[Laughter]* He's made a vital contribution to the basketball team from the State in which I live. But he's also a good ambassador for your country, and people of Argentine heritage have contributed mightily to America, and we're grateful for that.

We had a good discussion about a range of issues, as the President said. Argentina and the United States have a lot in common. We both believe in rule of law. We both believe in minority rights. We both believe in free press. We both believe in free religion. We both understand that institutions are important for the embetterment of the people, democratic institutions. At times, those institutions have been under assault in our two countries, and it's important as leaders of our countries—elected leaders—to stand up and defend those institutions.

And so, Mr. President, thank you for that dialog, and thank you for that discussion. The President reminded me that U.S. involvement in the neighborhood is—can be constructive and positive, and I agree. And I reminded him that the best involvement that can happen is when countries make wise decisions to attract investment, that there be consistency in law, which he agrees with, that

contracts be honored, that when a person makes an investment, that there is not certainty of success but certainty that the rules won't change, that when a government fights corruption, that government sends a signal to investors, large and small, that this is a good place to take risk.

I also reminded the President, we wouldn't be having this discussion if our respective economies weren't strong. And the United States economy is strong. It's healthy. We've overcome some serious challenges recently. But the investor climate in the United States, the willingness for people to invest is good. And the fact that Argentina is picking up additional direct foreign investment is positive. It shows that the country is making wise decisions.

We're going to talk about jobs later on, and that's an important subject. We discussed the need to make sure education systems were strong and vibrant, in order to make sure people can take advantage of opportunities when they arise.

I was pleased that the President was talking about a very ambitious education program, in terms of increasing expenditures, the percentage of GDP by, I think he said 2010, to be a significant increase. And that's wise. That's called leadership. And it seems like to me that at this summit, that if you believe in the values we discussed and if you understand how to make rational decisions, we ought to share those concepts with other countries. And that's why I'm glad to be down here. This is an opportunity to positively affirm our belief in democracy, in human rights and human dignity.

And so I want to thank you for being a good host. It's not easy to host all these countries. It's particularly not easy to host, perhaps, me. *[Laughter]* But thank you for doing it; you're doing a fine job. *[Laughter]* I'm looking forward to it. I'm looking forward to our meetings. I'm looking forward to this evening's cultural event and dinner, and I've been looking forward to our discussion. It was a good one.

Mr. President, thank you very much. It's an honor to be here.

**President Kirchner.** Thank you very much for being here. Again, we had a very clear, open, candid meeting. We clearly ex-

pressed our own thoughts. And as President of Argentina, I'm leaving this meeting feeling very satisfied because it wasn't a meeting looking for nice words but to speak the truth, and each of us did just that. Thank you very much for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:02 a.m. at the Hermitage Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Christina Fernandez de Kirchner of Argentina, wife of President Kirchner; and Emanuel D. "Manu" Ginobili, guard, National Basketball Association's San Antonio Spurs. President Kirchner spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### **Remarks at the Summit of the Americas and an Exchange With Reporters in Mar del Plata**

*November 4, 2005*

**The President.** Thank you all for coming. I'll answer a couple of questions in a second. I do want to say how pleased I am to be here in Argentina, advancing an agenda that is based upon my belief and our country's belief that there are certain universal values.

One of those values is that free societies are important to the progress of men and women, but free societies also require institutions that are solid and sound, institutions such as the right to worship freely, the right to write, say what you want in the press freely, the right to campaign and express your opinions freely. It's very important that there be solid rule of law and independent judiciary.

And so I'm pleased to be down here. It's a good place to spend Laura's birthday, which is today. I don't know if you knew that—no, I know you did, okay—but anyway, don't bring it up when you see her. *[Laughter]*

But it's—I just had a meeting earlier with the Central American countries—young democracies, struggling to succeed, making good progress toward making sure institutions are well-rooted. I say Central American, plus Dominican Republic. And we talked about how pleased we were that we got the free trade agreement through, at least

through the United States Congress. Most of the countries have ratified it. We're looking forward to implementing the trade agreement.

I had a good visit with President Kirchner. You know, Argentina is an amazing country. It's a vast land with a lot of natural resources. And he's done a very good job of helping to—helping this economy of theirs and their financial picture improve. And I congratulated him on it. We talked—well, you heard him, I won't repeat what we talked about. We talked about a lot of subjects. It was a good, honest discussion.

And finally, I just met with our friends from the Andean nations. Good, young democracies, again struggling to fight narcotrafficking, and they were very interested in making sure that we didn't forget them and that we continued to pursue a free trade agreement. That was the main topic of discussion. All those countries recognize the importance of having a free trade agreement with the United States, and I assured them that our negotiators are negotiating in good faith and will continue to negotiate in good faith. That's what I've done so far today.

Nedra [Nedra Pickler, Associated Press].

#### **CIA Employee's Identity Disclosure Investigation**

**Q.** Hi, Mr. President. Thank you. Did Karl Rove tell you the truth about his role in the CIA leak case? And do you owe the American people an apology for your administration's assertions that Karl Rove and Scooter Libby weren't involved?

**The President.** We're going through a very serious investigation. And I will—have told you before that I'm not going to discuss the investigation until it's completed. And we have got a—my obligation is to set an agenda, and I've done that. And the agenda is fighting and winning the war on terror and keeping the economic vitality and growth alive, dealing with the energy problem, nominating people to the Supreme Court that adhere to the philosophy that I can depend on—Judge Alito being such a person. I noticed today that they've got a date. I'm disappointed in the date but happy they do have a firm date for his confirmation hearing. We've got to recover from the hurricanes. So I've got a

lot to do and will continue to focus on the people's business.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

**Q.** You've taken a beating in recent weeks, sir. What are you going to do for a fresh start? Are there going to be any staff changes? Would it help if the special prosecutor would wrap up his probe quickly?

**The President.** Well, again, you're trying to get me to comment on the investigation, which I'm not going to do. And I hope you understand that. It's a serious investigation, and it's an important investigation, but it's not yet over.

I think it's important for the American people to know that I understand my job is to set clear goals and deal with the problems we face. Now, look, we've got an ongoing war on terror, and my administration is working with friends and allies to find these terrorists and bring them to justice before they strike us again. We're fighting the terrorists in Iraq. And as you know, we've got a two-pronged strategy, an important strategy, that one—on the one hand, has a political solution to it, on the other hand has a security solution to it. And we're working hard to achieve those objectives. We're laying what I have called the foundation for peace, because democratic nations don't war; democratic nations will be allies with each other in fighting off an ideology that is dark and grim in its vision and is willing to use murder as its tool.

Elisabeth [Elisabeth Bumiller, New York Times].

**Q.** Okay, this is not a question about the investigation, but it's about Karl.

**The President.** It sounds like one, though.

**Q.** Are there discussions in the White House about whether or not Karl will remain in his job?

**The President.** Elisabeth, the investigation on Karl, as you know, is not complete. And therefore, I will not comment upon—about him and/or the investigation. Again, I understand the anxiety and angst by the press corps to talk about this. On the other hand, it is a serious investigation, and we take it seriously, and we're cooperating to the extent that the special prosecutor wants us to cooperate.

### **President's Agenda**

**Q.** The American people, though—sir, the American people, though, are beginning to question your honesty, according to the polls, 58 percent. And your approval rating is at an alltime low, primarily because, it seems, of this investigation. They are wondering whether you can keep on track and whether to believe you, sir.

**The President.** Well, no, I understand there is a preoccupation by polls and by some. I think this may be—I think we've got—this is maybe the fourth or fifth consecutive semi-press conference—press conference or semi-press conference that I've been asked about polls. The way you earn credibility with the American people is to declare an agenda that everybody can understand, an agenda that relates to their lives, and get the job done. And the agenda that I'm working on now is one that is important to the American people.

First of all, it's to protect our country; it's to understand that we're at war with a radical ideology that wants to inflict harm on America and, at the same time, use that harm they inflict to achieve territorial ambition. I've talked a lot recently about the Zawahiri letter to Zarqawi, which is a clear statement of purpose by these terrorists. It should be viewed for what it is, an open warning to the free world that this is a very vital war, and we need to win it. So I spend a lot of time talking about that—and more than talking about it, acting on it.

Secondly, you know, our economy has shown amazing resilience in the face of natural disaster, as well as rising energy prices. But we've got to have policies in place that make it possible for the economy to continue to grow. You know, we're down here talking about trade. It's hard to trade with somebody if they're broke. And I've told our partners that we've got good economic growth now. But what we need to do is to work with Congress to make sure that we deal with the energy crisis—what can we do to deal with the energy crisis? Well, we can expand refinery capacity in the United States. I mean, it should be apparent to the Members of Congress that when the Katrina hit, there was massive disruptions of our own capacity to make gasoline, which put us in a precarious

position for the consumers, which would affect the economy, by the way.

And so we'll be talking to Congress about a further energy initiative to make sure we've got economic growth. We've obviously got work to do with Katrina and Rita, the damage from those hurricanes.

And I mentioned the Supreme Court. This is a very vital issue for the United States Senate and for the country. Sam Alito, Jr., is an incredibly intelligent, well-qualified person who should be on the Court. I told the leadership I thought it would be best to have the hearings before Christmas. They didn't feel like they could get the job done. I talked to Chairman Specter, and the reason why, at least he explained to me, that he couldn't get the hearings done before Christmas is because Alito had written so many opinions, and he wanted to make sure he had time to read them. And they made that decision. Fortunately, there is a firm date, and we look forward to working on that date.

And finally, an issue that is of concern to the American people is the border—is border security. I signed an appropriations bill for border security and during that signature ceremony talked about our strategy to use technology and border patrol and wise policies to do our job, which is to prevent people from illegally—not only people but, by the way, contraband, guns and drugs—from coming into our country illegally. And so that's the agenda before us, and that's the agenda that I will continue to work on.

One more. Yes, Matt [Matt Cooper, Time].

### **President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela**

**Q.** Mr. President, you're likely to cross paths with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez at this summit. How should Americans think about this President, who has said many hostile things about you and your administration? Do you think of him as another Castro? And if you see him this afternoon, do you have any words for him?

**The President.** Well, I will, of course, be polite. That's what the American people expect their President to do, is to be a polite person. And I will—if I run across him, I will do just that. My attitude toward any leader—toward leaders, and I judge leaders

based upon their willingness to protect institutions that will—for a viable democratic society. And to the extent that any leader undermines the free press, we will speak out. To the extent that any leader makes it difficult to worship freely, we will make our positions known. To the extent that the judiciary is not an independent organization—in other words, to the extent that there's not proper checks and balances, we will express our positions.

And there's ways to do so. We can do so through our embassies. We can do so in forums—not necessarily singling out a particular country or person but talking on the positive about how important it is to have checks and balances in society, about how important it is to have these institutions so that a single person cannot become the ruler of all people. I will remind people today at this important summit that—as we talk about poverty and minority rights, which is of concern to many countries here, that one—such concerns are our concerns, and that if you're interested in minority rights, the best way to allow minorities to have rights is in a democratic society, where the people actually make the decisions for government.

And so it's a—I think this is a good forum and a good opportunity to express—for me to express our country's values. But they're not American values, I keep telling you, these are universal values that are true. That's why my meeting with President Kirchner was—one of the reasons it was so positive is because Argentina shares the same values that America shares. They've been through some difficult experiences and making sure that those values are rooted in their societies. Of course I've reminded others, we went through difficult experiences in the past. And we had a Constitution that said everybody is free, but they weren't.

And so it's a—so what I'll search for in the world, as I think about world leaders, is that commitment, firm commitment to values and institutions that make democracy viable.

Thank you all very much. Thanks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:35 p.m. at the Sheraton Mar del Plata. In his remarks, he referred to President Nestor Kirchner of Argentina; Patrick J. Fitzgerald, U.S. Attorney for the North-

ern District of Illinois and Department of Justice CIA leak investigation Special Prosecutor; Ayman Al-Zawahiri, founder of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and senior Al Qaida associate; and senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Statement on the Launch of a Nationwide Effort To Respond to Hurricanes That Struck Central America**

*November 4, 2005*

Three distinguished private-sector leaders have agreed to launch a nationwide effort to encourage private donations for relief and reconstruction in response to the three recent hurricanes that struck Central America. These leaders will work with other Americans to raise awareness and resources to help those in need as a result of these disasters.

The business leaders are: Steve Reinemund, chairman and CEO, PepsiCo, Inc.; Bob Lane, chairman and CEO, Deere & Company; and Maria Lagomasino, former chairman and CEO, JPMorgan Private Bank. On behalf of our country, I am grateful to these leaders for their readiness to take on this important effort.

In the coming days, they will ask Americans to donate directly to a fund set up to provide help to the disaster victims.

### **Message on the Observance of Eid al-Fitr**

*November 4, 2005*

I send warm greetings to American Muslims and Muslims around the world observing Eid al-Fitr, the Festival of Breaking the Fast.

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, a time of prayer, reflection, and fasting. It is the holiest month of the Muslim year. To celebrate this holiday, many Muslims gather in their homes and mosques to thank God for His blessings and His help in keeping the fast. Muslims also demonstrate their compassion by reaching out to the less fortunate and

giving gifts of money or food to help those in need. This year, many American Muslims have reached out to the victims of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma and to those affected by the devastating earthquake in South Asia. Their contributions have been generous and reflect the important values shared by all Americans.

Our Nation is blessed to count many Muslims among our fellow citizens. As Americans, we share a commitment to family, a belief in God's justice and man's moral responsibility, and hope for a future of peace and tolerance.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a joyful celebration. Eid Mubarak.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **October 29**

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

#### **October 30**

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, in the Rotunda at the U.S. Capitol, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a wreath-laying ceremony and attended the public viewing of Rosa Parks, who lay in state until her funeral on November 2.

#### **October 31**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a telephone conversation with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had a working lunch

with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy.

Later in the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President had a meeting with activist Charm Tong of Burma.

#### **November 1**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and a briefing on hurricane recovery efforts. He then traveled to Bethesda, MD. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Chairman Donald E. Powell of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steven A. Browning to be Ambassador to Uganda.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeanine E. Jackson to be Ambassador to Burkina Faso.

The President announced his intention to appoint Lisette M. Mondello as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center.

#### **November 2**

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, Senate Majority Whip Mitch McConnell, Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, and House Majority Whip Roy Blunt to discuss legislative priorities.

Later in the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

In the afternoon, on the South Lawn, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an arrival ceremony for Prince Charles of Wales and Duchess Camilla of Cornwall from the United Kingdom. Later, they hosted a luncheon.

#### **November 3**

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Mar del Plata, Argentina, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark Acton to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kristie A. Kenney to be Ambassador to the Philippines.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Weisberg to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo.

The President announced his intention to nominate John L. Palmer and Thomas R. Saving to be members of the Boards of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee: Willard Lee Boyd; Jay I. Kislak; Nancy Clausen Wilkie; and James Wright Willis.

The President announced that he has named Stephen S. McMillin as Deputy Assistant to the President and Adviser to the Chief of Staff.

The President announced that he has named Douglas B. Baker as Special Assistant to the President and Director of Border and Transportation Security.

The President announced that he has named Rudy Fernandez as Special Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Daniel W. Fisk as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Meghan L. O'Sullivan as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for Iraq and Afghanistan.

The President announced that he has named Matthew Scott Robinson as Special Assistant to the President for Speechwriting.

The President announced that he has named Stephen B. Slick as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Intelligence Programs and Reform.

## **November 4**

In the morning, at the Sheraton Mar del Plata, the President met with President Abel Pacheco of Costa Rica, President Elias Antonio Saca Gonzalez of El Salvador, President Oscar Berger of Guatemala, President Ricardo Maduro of Honduras, President Enrique Bolanos of Nicaragua, and President Leonel Fernandez Reyna of the Dominican Republic to discuss the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

Later in the morning, the President went to the Hermitage Hotel, where he met with President Nestor Kirchner of Argentina. Later, at the Sheraton Mar del Plata, he met with leaders of Andean nations.

In the afternoon, the President met with President Ricardo Lagos of Chile. Later, he and Mrs. Bush went to the Teatro Auditorium at the Casino Central de Mar del Plata, where they participated in the opening ceremony of the Summit of the Americas.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to the Hermitage Hotel, where he participated in a group photo. He then participated in a plenary session of the Summit of the Americas.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the Casino Central de Mar del Plata, where they attended a formal dinner. Later, they returned to the Sheraton Mar del Plata.

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

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### **Submitted November 1**

Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of 14 years from February 1, 2006, vice Alan Greenspan, term expiring.



Ben S. Bernanke,  
of New Jersey, to be Chairman of the Board  
of Governors of the Federal Reserve System  
for a term of 4 years, vice Alan Greenspan.

Steven Alan Browning,  
of Texas, a career member of the Senior Foreign  
Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to  
be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of the United States of America  
to the Republic of Uganda.

Jeanine E. Jackson,  
of Wyoming, a career member of the Senior  
Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor,  
to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of the United States of America  
to Burkina Faso.

#### ***Withdrawn November 1***

Roger Francisco Noriega,  
of Kansas, to be a member of the Board of  
Directors of the Inter-American Foundation  
for a term expiring September 20, 2006, vice  
Harriet C. Babbitt, term expired, which was  
sent to the Senate on January 4, 2005.

Roger Francisco Noriega,  
of Kansas, to be a member of the Board of  
Directors of the Inter-American Foundation  
for a term expiring September 20, 2006, vice  
Harriet C. Babbitt, term expired, to which  
position he was appointed during the recess  
of the Senate from January 6, 2005, to January  
20, 2005, which was sent to the Senate  
on February 14, 2005.

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### **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office  
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as  
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of  
Other White House Announcements.

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#### ***Released October 30***

Statement by the Press Secretary on the terrorist  
attacks in India

#### ***Released October 31***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary  
Scott McClellan

Advance text of remarks by National Security  
Adviser Stephen J. Hadley to the American  
Israel Public Affairs Committee

Biography: Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr.

#### ***Released November 1***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary  
Scott McClellan

Transcript of a teleconference briefing on the  
avian flu by Rajeev Venkayya, Special Assistant  
to the President for Biological Defense Policy

Fact sheet: Safeguarding America Against  
Pandemic Influenza

Fact sheet: Coordinating Federal Support for  
Gulf Coast Rebuilding

#### ***Released November 2***

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security  
Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on the President's  
Trip to Argentina, Brazil, and Panama

#### ***Released November 3***

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary  
Scott McClellan and Assistant Secretary of  
State for the Western Hemisphere Tom Shannon  
on the President's visit to the Summit of the  
Americas

Announcement of the Presidential Medal of  
Freedom recipients

#### ***Released November 4***

Transcript of a press briefing by Assistant  
Secretary of State for the Western Hemisphere  
Tom Shannon on the President's bilateral  
meetings

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### **Acts Approved by the President**

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NOTE: No acts approved by the President were  
received by the Office of the Federal Register  
during the period covered by this issue.